

Application No. 10/611551
Page 2

Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10691-US01

Amendments To The Specification:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A method and apparatus for reducing the longitudinal aspect of the catheter to stent force ~~comprises~~ having at least one grip member for use with a stent delivery system. The grip engages a stent in the unexpanded state prior to delivery of the stent by retracting a stent retaining sheath. The grip ~~comprises~~ has a body region having an outer diameter, a first end and a second end. The outer diameter of the first end is greater than the outer diameter of the second end. The grip is at least partially constructed from a polymeric material.